



SPARROWS HI CURRICULUM

Practical Life Skills

PURPOSE

The purpose of this framework is to equip students with the practical knowledge, skills and habits they need to live responsibly, serve faithfully and navigate adult life with wisdom.

Practical life skills are an expression of stewardship. Every skill developed can be used for the glory of God and the benefit of others.

Students should leave Sparrows HI not only with faith and character, but with growing competence in the practical demands of life.

PHILOSOPHY

The Christian life is lived in the ordinary.

Faithfulness in little things prepares us for faithfulness in greater things. Practical competence enables faithful service.

We desire students who are simultaneously established in Christ and capable in the practical challenges of life.

GRADUATE OUTCOME

By graduation, students should demonstrate growing competence in:

- managing time;
- financial stewardship;
- household management;
- health and wellbeing;
- critical thinking;
- problem solving;
- digital responsibility;
- employment readiness;
- civic participation.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Students learn:

- the biblical view of money and possessions;
- earning;
- budgeting;
- saving;
- giving;
- spending wisely;
- avoiding unnecessary debt;
- understanding tax and superannuation;
- basic banking.

Financial stewardship is taught as an expression of trust in God rather than anxiety about money.

TIME MANAGEMENT

Students develop skills in:

- planning;
- prioritising;
- meeting commitments;
- avoiding procrastination;
- balancing rest, work and study;
- honouring the Sabbath as a rhythm of rest.

HOUSEHOLD AND HOME

Students learn practical household skills including:

- cooking;
- nutrition;
- cleaning;
- laundry;
- basic maintenance;
- hospitality;
- caring for a home.

Household skills enable students to serve their families and practise generous hospitality throughout life.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Students develop:

- understanding of basic health and nutrition;
- physical fitness habits;
- mental health awareness;
- sleep and rest practices;
- resilience and stress management;
- seeking help when needed.

Students learn to care for their bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit.

CRITICAL THINKING AND RESEARCH

Students develop skills in:

- evaluating sources;
- identifying bias;
- researching accurately;
- forming and expressing reasoned opinions;
- distinguishing facts from interpretation.

Critical thinking is essential for navigating a world of competing information and ideas.

PROBLEM SOLVING

Students practise:

- identifying problems;
- gathering information;
- considering options;

- making decisions;
- evaluating outcomes;
- learning from mistakes.

DIGITAL RESPONSIBILITY

Students develop:

- responsible use of technology;
- online safety;
- digital literacy;
- understanding of privacy;
- awareness of digital wellbeing;
- responsible use of artificial intelligence.

Technology is a powerful tool. Students learn to use it wisely rather than be used by it.

EMPLOYMENT READINESS

Older students are introduced to:

- resume writing;
- interview skills;
- workplace expectations;
- understanding rights and responsibilities as a worker;
- understanding vocational calling;
- entrepreneurial thinking.

CIVIC PARTICIPATION

Students develop:

- understanding of Australian governance;
- voting;
- civic responsibility;
- engagement with local community;
- caring for creation;
- responsible citizenship.

Christian discipleship includes faithful participation in the communities God has placed us in.

FIRST AID AWARENESS

Students develop basic first aid awareness including:

- responding to common injuries;
- CPR awareness;
- emergency responses;
- knowing when to seek help.

LEARNING PROGRESSION

The program is structured across three stages of secondary education.

Years 7–8

- Basic cooking and hospitality;
- tidiness and responsibility;
- simple budgeting;
- online safety.
- Emphasis: building responsible habits.

Years 9–10

- Nutrition;
- financial management;
- time management;
- research skills;
- digital responsibility.
- Students take increasing responsibility for their own lives.

Years 11–12

- Employment readiness;
- civic participation;
- independent budgeting;
- first aid awareness;
- vocational discernment.
- Students prepare for responsible adult life.

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Students should regularly participate in:

- cooking together;
- hospitality preparation;
- budgeting exercises;
- research projects;
- workshops with community members in various vocations;
- service that develops practical skills.

Learning is most effective when it is practical, relational and purposeful.

ASSESSMENT

Growth is demonstrated through:

- increasing practical competence;
- reliability;
- responsible decision-making;
- reflective journaling;
- mentoring conversations.

Assessment should celebrate growing independence and faithful stewardship.

INTEGRATION

Practical Life Skills connects with:

- Christian Worldview;
- Leadership Development;
- Service and Mission;
- Discipleship and Spiritual Practices;
- Communication and Creative Arts.

Competent, responsible people are better equipped to love God and serve others throughout their lives.

OUR PRAYER

We pray that students will grow into men and women who are established in Christ, capable in life and faithful in service.

May they manage their time, resources and abilities as faithful stewards who ultimately live for the glory of God.

One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much.

Luke 16:10